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Title: The Minister of state of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation laid a statement regarding Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 70th Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on Demands for Grants (2008-09), pertaining to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): Sir, I beg to lay the statement on the implementation status of the recommendations contained in the Seventieth Report of the Standing Committee on Finance in pursuance of Direction 73A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha. Present status of implementation of the various recommendations made by the Committee is indicated in the annexures to my statement which is laid on the table of the House. I would not like to take the time of the House and read out the contents of the annexures and hence I would request that this may be considered as read.

The Standing Committee on Finance examined the Demands for Grant of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for the year 2008-09 and presented their Seventieth Report to the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on April 16 and 15, 2008 respectively. There are 14 recommendations made by the Committee in the said report where action is called for on the part of the Government. The major recommendations mainly relate to

1. Under utilization of Plan funds under the Head "Professional Services".

2. Finalization of Eleventh Five Year Plan Proposals of the Ministry in consultation with the Planning Commission.

3. Progress in implementation of the Plan Scheme "Basic Statistics of local Level Development".

* Laid on the Table and also Placed in Library See No. LT 9879/08.

4. Steps taken by the Ministry to address the problem of shortage of manpower and attrition of trained manpower.

5. Identification of areas of core statistics, evolving of appropriate standard and methodology for collecting such statistics by the National Statistical Commission.

6. Action taken by the Ministry to complete the exercise of developing separate Urban and Rural Consumer Price Indices.

7. Recommendations made by the National Statistical Commission to deal with the deficiencies in Price Statistics.

8. Progress of implementation of the Plan scheme "India Statistical Strengthening Project" during the current year.

9. Progress in development of a suitable methodology and frame work for Natural Resource Accounting for different sectors.

10. Efforts made by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation to obtain the approved completion schedules/anticipated dates of completion of Central Sector Project from the concerned Ministries and progress made thereon.

11. Efforts made by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation to ensure that concerned Ministries monitor the implementation of their respective Central Sector Projects on a constant basis and take immediate corrective action to avoid time and cost over runs.

12. Action taken by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation to ensure that there is no cost and time over runs in the projects pertaining to the Golden Quadrilateral and North-South and East-West corridor projects.

13. Action taken by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation to obtain information from the relevant Ministries

against those held responsible for lapses contributing to cost overrun of projects.